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# Cuba Prisoner Deal Rumored

## Drug, Food Swap By Donovan Seen

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG

Star Staff Writer

Reports today swept Cuban refugee communities in Washington, New York and Miami that the attorney who negotiated the release of U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers is now on the verge of engineering a trade of food and medicine for more than 1,100 Cuban invasion prisoners.

The attorney, James B. Donovan, refused to confirm or deny rumors that freeing of the prisoners is imminent. He previously had acknowledged that he has been in touch with Fidel Castro's government and, if necessary, will go to Havana to enter into direct negotiations.

The situation has become steadily worse for the prisoners still held since the abortive invasion last year. One recently released man looked as if he had come out of a wartime concentration camp.

### Humanitarian Appeals

Mr. Donovan's approach to the Cuban government has been based on humanitarian appeals. He has made the point that he wants to see what can be done by the American people to help the Cuban people.

That's why the approach has been an offer of food, medicine and other essentials desperately needed by all the Cuban people. Earlier approaches dealt first with tractors and then with cash to ransom the prisoners.

Mr. Donovan is general counsel for the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War. A committee of prominent Americans formed in June to help the Cuban Families Committee first aimed at sponsoring a drive for \$62 mil-

lion in ransom money. The food and medicine offer is a later development.

### Havana Trip Forecast

The rumors circulating here are to the effect that Mr. Donovan has been negotiating with Mr. Castro by telephone to trade the prisoners for food instead of cash and that he will complete the negotiations with a trip to Havana in the next few days.

Various dates have been circulated as to when the deal is to be consummated. One Cuban source put the date at Wednesday, while another said it would be August 30. There was general agreement, however, that an important development is due soon.

Mr. Castro has put ransom tags on all the prisoners held since the invasion, with prices ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000. Only six have been released so far on his terms.